(c) the financial burden cast per months on the public sector sector oil companies as a result of these changes in taxes?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) For petrol, the impact of duty changes (both custom and excise including road cess announced during Budget of 2005-06) necessitated a net increase of Rs. 2.20/litre at Delhi Similarly, for diesel the impact of duty changes required a net increase of Rs. 1.06/litre at Delhi. The impact of Budget changes regarding petrol and diesel on oil companies is estimated to be Rs. 521 crore per month (based on April 2005 sales volumes).

Policy on acquisition of overseas oil equity

195. SHRI YASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are following an aggressive policy of acquiring oil equity abroad; and

(b) if so, the concrete results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Given the increasing gap between the demand for and the domestic availability of crude oil and natural gas, it has become essential in the interests of energy security to step up efforts overseas in search of equity oil and gas. Towards this end, and in keeping with the objectives of the National Common Minimum Programme, ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) as well as other national oil companies such as Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Gail (India) Ltd. (GAIL) have been pursuing the acquisition of equity oil, as well as oil and gas exploration acreages and producing properties abroad. These companies have already acquired participating interests in oil and gas projects located in Vietnam, Sudan, Russia, Iran, Iraq, Myanman, Libya, Syria, Australia, Ivory Coast, Qatar and Egypt.

Block 0.61 in Vietnam and the Greater Nile Oil Project (GNOP) in Sudan are producing gas and oil respectively. During the year 2004-05, OVL produced about 5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of oil and oil equivalent gas (0+OEG) from their Vietnam and Sudan Projects. The production of O+OEG

during the 2005-06 is estimated to be around 5.20 MMT. Besides, the first commercial production from Sakhalin-I is expected to commence this year, although it is difficult to estimate the precise quantity that will thus become available.

Violation of marketing discipline agreement

†196. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of violation of Marketing Discipline Guidance and Distributorship Agreement registered during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases out of the same in which there has been conviction; and

(c) the action taken and the form in which it has been taken against the accused in conviction?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) During the last three years, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported the following number of irregularities/malpractices against their LPG distributors:—

Year	Number of irregularities/ malpractices against LPG distributors
2002-03	355
2003-04	324
2004-05	842

(b) and (c) OMCs have taken action against the erring distributors for established malpractices under the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Distributorship Agreements. As regards the issue of conviction of erring distributors, this is dealt with by the judicial authorities if such distributors are booked under the relevant Acts. Conviction is not provided for under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Distributorship Agreements.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.